THE SPEECH OF Henry Sacheverell, D.D. UPON HIS IMPEACHMENT AT THE Bar of the Houſe of Lords, IN *WESTMINSTER-HALL*, March 7. $170\frac{9}{10}$.

LONDON, Printed in the Year 1710.

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Henry Sacheverell, D.D.

UPON HIS

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Bar. of the House of Lords,

March 7. 1709.

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To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

Lords Spiritual and Temporal,

In PARLIAMENT Assembled.

May it Please YOUR LORDSHIPS,

IT *hath been my Hard Fortune to be Misunderstood, at a time when I endeavour'd to Express my self with the utmost Plainness; even the Defence I made at* YOUR LORDSHIPS *Bar, in hopes of Clearing the Innocence of my Heart, hath been grievously Misrepresented. For which reason I have humbly Presum'd to Offer it in This manner to* YOUR LORDSHIPS *Perusal.*

MY LORDS, These are the very Words I spoke to YOUR LORDSHIPS. *I hope they are so Plain, and Express, as not to be capable of any Misconstruction: and may I so find Mercy at the Hands of God, as they are in every Respect, entirely Agreeable to my Thoughts, and Principles.*

I am,

MY LORDS,

YOUR LORDSHIPS most Obedient,

and most Dutiful Servant,

Henry Sacheverell.

To the Right Honourable

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Lords Spiritual and Temporal,

In PARLIAMENT Assembled.

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My Lords,

Your Lordships most Obedient,

and most Dutiful Servant,

Henry Sacheverell.

My Lords,

THE Defence made by *My Council* has been ſo *Full*, and *Particular*, and the *Tryal* it ſelf drawn out into ſo Great a *Length*, that I ſhould not Add to Your Lordships Trouble by ſaying any Thing for *My Self*, did I not think that in *ſuch a Cauſe*, as *This*, (wherein the *Doctrine* of *Our Church*, the *Dignity* of *That Holy Order*, to which I belong, and even the *Common Intereſt* of *Chriſtianity* it ſelf are ſo nearly Concern'd) it becomes Me not to be altogether Silent.

For, My Lords, it has been Own'd by ſome of the *Managers for the Honourable Houſe of Commons*, that tho' *I* am the *Perſon Impeach'd*, yet *My Condemnation* is not the *Thing* principally Aim'd at. I am, it ſeems, an *Inſignificant Tool of a Party*, *not worth Regarding*; the Avow'd Deſign of My *Impeachment* is, by the *Means* of it to procure an *Eternal and Indelible Brand of Infamy to be fixt in a Parliamentary way, on All thoſe, who Maintain the Doctrine of Non-Reſiſtance, and to have the Clergy directed what Doctrines they are to Preach and what not.* And therefore, as *Inſignificant* as I am in my *Self*, yet the *Conſequences* of My Tryal, (if rightly Repreſented to Your Lordships by ſome of *Thoſe Gentlemen*) are of the higheſt Moment, and Importance.

Since *I* am the Unfortunate Occaſion of bringing theſe Matters in Judgment before Your Lordships, it will behove Me, I think, after what has been Pleaded in My Behalf by My *Council Learned in the Law*, to ſay ſomewhat alſo for My *Self*, in order to Clear the *Innocence* of My *Intentions*, and Remove that Load of *Guilt* and *Infamy*, which may be laid upon Me, ſhould

YOUR LORDSHIPS Determine, (as, I Truſt in God, YOU will not) that the *Articles of Impeachment* Exhibited, have been made Good againſt Me.

With YOUR LORDSHIPS Permiſſion then, I ſhall lay before YOU, ſome few *General Remarks* which in My humble Opinion may be added to what *My Council* have already Obſerv'd, concerning the Methods taken by *the Managers for the Honourable Houſe of Commons*, to Prove and Support the *Articles* of their Charge. And ſhall then with YOUR LORDSHIPS Leave ſay ſomewhat *ſeverally* to the *Articles* themſelves, which may ſerve to Remind YOUR LORDSHIPS of what my *Council* before Offer'd more at large, and with Greater Advantage.

MY LORDS, the Charge brought againſt Me in theſe *Articles* is of a very *High*, and *Heinous* Nature; and had it been as *Clearly Made out*, as it has been *ſtrongly Affirm'd*, it would juſtly have Expos'd Me to a very Severe Sentence. But the more *Heinous* the *Charge* is, the more *Evident* and *Undeniable*, I ſhould think, the *Proof ought* to be. And how, MY LORDS, has this Charge been Supported in the Several *Articles* of it? By *Plain*, *Direct*, and *Expreſs* Paſſages produc'd, and read to YOUR LORDSHIPS out of my *Sermons*; or by *Intendments*, *Unneceſſary Implications*, and *Strain'd Conſtructions*? By laying *Entire Sentences* before YOUR LORDSHIPS, and Relying upon what was *Manifeſtly* contain'd in Them; or by *Pieceing Broken Sentences*, and Conjoyning Diſtant and Independent Paſſages, in order to Make Me *Speak*, what I never *Thought* of?

I am Unacquainted, MY LORDS, with the Methods of *Legal Proof*, and little thought I ſhould have had *This Occaſion* of Enquiring into Them. But, as far as I am able to Comprehend any thing of This Nature, I ſhould think, that there cannot be a *Clearer Indication* that I am not Guilty of having Aſſerted what I am Charg'd by the Several Articles to have ſaid, than that

ſo *many Hours Learning* and *Eloquence* have been Employ'd in *Proving* Me to have ſaid it. Had I *really* Affirm'd thoſe Propoſitions for which I am Accus'd, My Sermons being before YOUR LORDSHIPS, the Places wherein ſuch Propoſitions were directly Contain'd, might have been referr'd to, and Read, with the ſame Eaſe as *My Council* referr'd to the Paſſages contain'd in the ſeveral *Writings*, and *Sermons* of the *Reverend Fathers*, and Other *Eminent Divines* of *Our Church*, wherein They Taught the *Doctrine of Non-Reſiſtance* in the *ſame Extent* as I Maintain'd it, or in *Terms* much *Stronger*.

Theſe Paſſages, produc'd by *My Council*, were barely *Read* to YOUR LORDSHIPS: No *Argument*, no *Colours* were us'd, becauſe *None* were *Neceſſary* to prove what Propoſitions were laid down in thoſe Paſſages; Whereas to Prove Me Guilty of having Aſſerted what is laid to my Charge, after my *Sermon* and *Prefaces* were Read to YOUR LORDSHIPS, much *Art*, and *Induſtry* were us'd to Perſwade YOUR LORDSHIPS, that ſuch Aſſertions were *really* Contain'd in Them.

MY LORDS, when my Words were Capable of *Two* Senſes, the *Worſt*, and moſt *Invidious*, tho' at the ſame time the moſt *Strain'd*, and *Unnatural Conſtruction*, has been always made of Them. Nay, when My Words were ſo *Plain* and *Expreſs*, that it was *Impoſſible* to put any *Criminal Gloſſes* or *Colours* upon them, I have been Accus'd of *Meaning* the *Direct contrary* to what I have ſaid: And when I preſs'd the Duty of *Allegiance to the* QUEEN, YOUR LORDSHIPS were told, that it was moſt *certain*, I *Meant* the *Pretender*.

To *Aggravate* My Guilt, I have been *Accus'd* not only for what I am *Suppos'd* to have Said, but for what I am Allow'd *not* to have Said: not only for what *I have* taken Notice of in My *Sermons*, but for what I have *paſs'd by Unobſerv'd:* I have been Charg'd with *Negative Crimes*; as if what I *Omitted* to ſay, had been *O-*

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mitted with *Design*, and My *Silence* it ſelf were *Criminal.*

Theſe, My Lords, are the Methods, that have been made uſe of to *Prove* Me Guilty of *Crimes*, which *if* Prov'd, might Affect my *Liberty* and *Fortune*; No *favourable Allowances* have been made to a *Miniſter of the Goſpel*, Diſcharging the *Duty* of His *Function*, and Rebuking *Vice* and *Irreligion* with an *Honeſt* and *well-meant Zeal*, but ſometimes perhaps carrying Him into Expreſſions too Open, and Unguarded. I could Add, My Lords, if ſuch a Complaint might not be Thought *Improper* from *One* in *My Circumſtances*, that, in the Courſe of my Accuſation, I have been Stil'd a *Criminal*, and Treated as *Such* by ſome of theſe *Honourable Gentlemen*, with a Degree of *Scorn*, and *Indignity*, from which I hop'd my *Sacred Profeſſion*, my *Preſent Unhappy Condition*, and a Regard to this *Solemn* and *Awful Judicature* might have Screen'd Me.

But, My Lords, I lay aſide all *Complaints* of This Nature, and with Your Lordships Leave ſhall proceed to make ſome few, ſhort Obſervations upon the ſeveral *Branches* of the *Charge* Exhibited againſt Me.

I am Charg'd, My Lords, in the *Firſt Article*, with having Maintain'd, *That the Neceſſary Means* us'd to bring about the *Late Happy Revolution were Odious and Unjuſtifiable*; in Proof of which it has been urg'd, that I have in *General Terms* aſſerted, *the Utter Illegality of Reſiſtance to the Supreme Power* upon any *Pretence whatſoever*. My Lords, The *Reſiſtance* in That Paſſage by Me *Condemn'd*, is no where by Me *Applied* to the *Revolution*; nor is it *Applicable* to the *Caſe* of the *Revolution*, the *Supreme Power not being then* Reſiſted.

My Lords, I neither expreſly Apply'd My Doctrine of *Non-Reſiſtance* to the Caſe of the *Revolution*, nor had I the leaſt Thoughts of Including the *Revolution* under My *General Aſſertion.* I Expreſs'd *This Doctrine* in the ſame *General Terms* in which I Found it Deli-

ver'd by the *Apoſtles of Chriſt.* I *Taught* it as I had *Learnt* it, from the *Homilies of Our Church*, and as I was *Injoin'd* to Teach it, by the *Articles of Our Religion.* I us'd no *Other Language*; than what had been Us'd by Our *Firſt Reformers*, by a Continued Series of *Right Reverend Prelates*, and Other *Celebrated Divines* now with God, and by Many of thoſe *Venerable Fathers*, before whom I ſtand, and what is perfectly Agreeable to the *Laws*, and *Statutes* of this Realm. I had *Little* Reaſon to Apprehend that *I* could *ever* have been Accus'd by the *Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons* to Your Lordships as a *Criminal*, or as an *Aſperſer of the Memory of the Late King*, for Preaching *This* Doctrine; when *Others*, who Preach'd the *Same Doctrine*, in the *Same Terms*, before *Their Late Majeſties*, before Our *Preſent Gracious Sovereign*, (whom I pray God long to Preſerve!) before Each *Houſe of Parliament*, before *This very Houſe of Commons*, have Met with *Publick Approbation:* But ſince it is My *Singular Misfortune* to be *Accus'd*, for what *Others* have *Receiv'd Thanks*, in ſome Inſtances convey'd to Them, by *ſeveral* of the *Managers Themſelves*, I do with all humble Confidence rely upon Your Lordships *Juſtice*; not doubting but that the *Learned the Judges*, if thought Neceſſary to be Conſulted, will Declare, what I have in This Caſe Aſſerted, to be Warranted by *Law*, and the *Right Reverend the Biſhops* will affirm it to be the *Doctrine of the Goſpel.*

The *Doctrine* I preach'd being the *Doctrine of the Homilies* of Our *Church*, not expreſs'd only in a *Few* particular Paſſages of thoſe *Homilies*, but perfectly Agreeable to the *whole Tenor*, the *main Scope and Deſign* of them; And thoſe *Homilies* being Eſtabliſh'd by the *Thirty Nine Articles*, as *containing Godly* and *wholeſome Doctrine*; and *thoſe Articles* being confirm'd by the 13. *of Q. Eliz.*; and that Statute being made *Perpetual*, and *Fundamental* to Our *Conſtitution* by the *Late Act of Union*; I leave it to Your Lordships to conſider, how

far the Condemnation of *Me*, on the Account of *That Doctrine*, may Affect, and Shake the *preſent Frame* of the *Britiſh Conſtitution*, in *Church*, and *State*, and tend to Diſſolve the *Union of the Two Kingdoms*.

My Lords, upon the *Second Article*, I would humbly pray Your Lordships to conſider, that I have no where in My Sermon ſhewn any the leaſt Diſlike of the *Indulgence Granted by Law to Diſſenters*; that, on the contrary, I have Declar'd My *Approbation* of it in the *moſt expreſs Terms* imaginable, which I beg leave once more to repeat to Your Lordships out of My Sermon preach'd at St. *Paul*'s. *I would not* (I there ſay) *be Miſunderſtood, as if I intended to caſt the leaſt Invidious Reflection upon That Indulgence, which the Government hath Condeſcended to give them; which I am ſure, all Thoſe, who Wiſh well to Our Church, are ready to Grant to Conſciences truly ſcrupulous; let them Enjoy it in the full Limits the Law hath Preſcrib'd.*

My Lords, This then *was*, and ſtill *is* My ſincere Opinion, nor am I conſcious that I have utter'd *one Word* Inconſiſtent with it. I have indeed *Blam'd*, and perhaps with ſome Warmth, and Earneſtneſs Blam'd, the *Abuſes*, which Men of *no Conſcience*, have made, of the *Legal Exemption*, granted to *Conſciences truly ſcrupulous*: nor could I think that thoſe Reprehenſions of Mine, would have drawn upon Me the Diſpleaſure of any *Sincere Chriſtian*, which were Levell'd againſt *Hypocrites*, *Socinians*, *Deiſts*, and ſuch as, under the Umbrage of That *Act*, which *permits Proteſtant Diſſenters*, and thoſe Only, to ſerve God, every Man in his Own way, think themſelves at Liberty to be of no *Proteſtant Congregation*, of *no Religion* at all. I will farther ingenuouſly Own to Your Lordships, that I had in my Eye ſome *Abuſes* made of *That Act* by the *Diſſenters themſelves*; who, I am told, do (both *Paſtors*, and *People*) rarely Obſerve the *Qualifications* preſcrib'd by *That Act*; and who Erect *Seminaries* for Educating Youth in *Principles*

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oppoſite to the *Doctrine*, *Diſcipline*, and *Worſhip* of Our *Church*: whereas *That Act* was *intended* for the Eaſe of *Thoſe*, whoſe Minds through the Unhappy Prejudices of Education, were *already* Eſtranged from the *Church*; not, as I humbly conceive, to Indulge Men in taking the moſt effectual Methods to *Propagate*, and *Perpetuate* Their *Schiſm*.

My Lords, of any Favours to Diſſenters Granted, or Intended by the *Law*, I have no where Complain'd; of *Toleration*, a word unknown to Our *Laws*, and Implying, as I am inform'd, much more than Our *Law-Givers* Deſign'd, if I have ſaid any thing *Offenſive*, I may, I hope, reaſonably Preſume, that it will not be Judg'd by Your Lordships in any wiſe to Reflect on That *Act of Exemption*, which I have ſpoken of in *Terms*, no ways, I think, Miſbecoming a *Good Subject*, or Betraying any want of *Chriſtian Moderation*. Nor is there, My Lords, any want of it, I conceive, in Affirming that *this Act*, which Relieves ſome Diſſenters from *Legal Puniſhments*, to which they were before Obnoxious, hath not any ways Alter'd the *Nature* of *Schiſm*, or Extinguiſh'd the *Obligations* to *Church-Communion*; which is an *Evangelical Duty*, incumbent on All Chriſtians, by the *Rules* of the *Goſpel*, *Antecedent* to all *Secular Laws*, and can by no *Human Power* be *Diſpens'd* with. If the *Church of England*, My Lords, impoſes no *Unlawful* Terms of *Communion*, as She certainly does not, then All *Separatiſts* from Her *Communion*, will, notwithſtanding the *Indulgence*, continue to be Guilty of *Schiſm*; The Conſequence of which *Guilt*, may ſtill reſt upon their *Souls*, however it may ceaſe to Affect their *Bodies*, or *Eſtates*. For as no *Human Law* can render That *Lawful* which God hath *Forbidden*, ſo neither can it make That *Void*, which God hath *Commanded*.

My Lords, I am Accus'd, under this Head, of Maintaining, that *it is the Duty of Superior Paſtors to Thunder out their Eccleſiaſtical Anathema's againſt Perſons*

ſons Intitul'd to the Benefit of the Toleration; I hope, it hath evidently appear'd to YOUR LORDSHIPS, that I Advance no ſuch *Poſition*. Sure I am, that My Words do not in *themſelves* carry ſuch a Meaning, nor does the *Connexion* of My Diſcourſe require *That* Senſe, or eaſily *Admit* it. *Schiſmaticks*, MY LORDS, are not the *Only* Perſons, againſt whom *Eccleſiaſtical Cenſures* may be Denounced; *the Works of Darkneſs*, which I referr'd to, *as fit to be Reprov'd*, in that Part of my Sermon, where I ſpeak of *Theſe Cenſures*, are of the ſame kind with Thoſe mention'd by the *Apoſtle*, whoſe Words I produc'd, All *Lewd*, and *Immoral* Practices; Againſt theſe MY LORDS, and againſt *Hereſies*, and *Blaſphemies*, (a Black Catalogue of which has been Diſplay'd before YOUR LORDSHIPS) I thought the *Anathema's* of the Church would be well employ'd; ſuch *Anathema's*, I doubt not, MY LORDS, would be *ratified in Heaven*, and would, therefore by any *Power on Earth, be Irreverſible*.

As to *Archbiſhop Grindal*, tho' I may ſeem to have us'd ſome undue Aſperity of Expreſſion concerning him, yet I charg'd him with nothing but what I had good Grounds for, from Our *Hiſtorians*: It hath been made appear to YOUR LORDSHIPS, that, on the Account of His *Remiſſneſs in Church-Covernment*, He Liv'd and dy'd under the High Diſpleaſure of *Queen Elizabeth*; and whether therefore He, or *That Glorious Queen*, ſhall bear the Blame of his Diſgrace and Sufferings, is with all Humility ſubmitted to YOUR LORDSHIPS.

I hope, MY LORDS, I ſtand Clear in Your Opinions, of the Charge advanc'd againſt Me, in the *Two Firſt Articles*; and as My Own Conſcience Acquits, ſo I truſt YOUR LORDSHIPS will Acquit Me, of whatever is laid to My Charge in the *Third*.

MY LORDS, I neither have Suggeſted, nor do in My Conſcience Believe, *that the Church is in the leaſt Peril, or Adverſity from* Her MAJESTY's *Adminiſtration*. So far am I from any ſuch Thoughts, that I am entire-

ly ſatisfied of *Her* being a moſt *Affectionate Nurſing-Mother* to it. But I hope I may ſay without Offence, that the *Church* may be in Peril from *Other Cauſes*, without any Reflection upon HER MAJESTY's *Government*, or any Contradiction to *Her Royal Proclamation*, and the *Reſolution* of *Both Houſes of Parliament*, Four Years ago. If the *Church* be in danger, when the *Chriſtian Religion* is evidently ſo, I hope it will be thought no Crime to ſay, it has ſcarce ever been in Greater Danger than it is now, ſince Chriſt had a *Church* upon Earth. For beſides That Deluge of *Prophaneneſs*, and *Immorality*, which Overſpreads the *Whole Kingdom*; beſides the *Variety*, and Growing *Strength* of Thoſe *Schiſms* which *Weaken* and *Divide* us, and of thoſe *Heterodox Opinions*, and *Damnabe Hereſies*, which are daily *Publiſhed* and *Propagated* among us; I verily Believe, that never were the *Miniſters of Chriſt* ſo *Abus'd*, and *Vilify'd*, never was the *Divine Authority* of the *Holy Scriptures* ſo *Arraign'd*, and *Ridicul'd*, never were *Infidelity*, and *Atheiſm* it ſelf ſo *Impudent*, and *Barefac'd*, never were ſuch *horrid Blaſphemies Printed* in Any *Chriſtian State*, from the *Foundation* of *Chriſtianity* to this *Day*.

Out of the many Inſtances of this Kind, which, being ready at hand, I could have Produc'd to YOUR LORDSHIPS, I have *Selected* a *Few* only; but Thoſe ſuch, as I am perſwaded, YOUR LORDSHIPS could not hear without Horror and Aſtoniſhment. Pardon me, MY LORDS, if My Apprehenſion of the ſad Conſequences We may expect from ſuch *Crying Abominations*, have forc'd from me ſome Expreſſions, which upon a *Leſs* Occaſion might ſeem too harſh, and vehement. A Man that Dreads no *Danger* from ſuch *Unparallel'd Iniquities*, that do as it were *call down* God's ſevereſt Judgments upon That *Poor Church*, and *Nation*, wherein they are *Openly* and *Daringly* Committed, muſt be *Dead* in his *Love* for his *Country*, and *Religion*. If I

have Diſclos'd ſuch a *Frightful*, and *Deteſtable Scene* of Impiety, which by reaſon of YOUR LORDSHIPS *High Stations*, and *Great Employments*, might poſſibly lie Undiſcover'd to Your Sight before; I ſhall think My ſelf *Happy*, whatever ſhall Befal Me, if I may by *God*'s Grace become the *Mean Inſtrument*, of putting a ſtop to That *Overflowing* of *Ungodlineſs*, and *Blaſphemy*, which as yet no *Laws*, no *Proclamations*, how well ſoever *Deſign'd*, and how often ſoever *Repeated*, have been *Able* to *Reſtrain*.

Nor ought I, MY LORDS, to *Forget*, tho' it was *Forgotten* by the *Honourable Managers*, Another *Ground* of *Danger* ariſing to *This Church* from the Attempts of *Popiſh Emiſſaries*, by Me mention'd, I hope without the Leaſt Offence, in My Sermon at St. *Paul*'s, where I ſay, *It were highly to be wiſh'd that Thoſe Excellent Laws, made for the Defence, and Security of the Church, were at preſent put ſtrictly in Execution; for the Roman Catholick Agents, and Miſſionaries, that ſwarm about this Great City, as 'twere in Defiance and Contempt of Them, were never more Buſie in making Proſelytes to their Superſtition and Idolatry, and Perverting and Debauching* HER MAJESTY'S *Subjects in every Corner of Our Streets.* I have not, MY LORDS, been called upon to Prove the Truth of *This Paſſage*, nor has it been Reckon'd among the *Falſe Inſinuations* I have made that the *Church is in Danger*. I pray God, the Church may be in *no* Danger, upon *any* of Theſe Accounts! HER MAJESY, YOUR LORDSHIPS, and the *Commons*, have indeed provided againſt theſe *Dangers* by *Wholeſome Laws*, and I hope, I did not *Exceed* the Limits of my *Function*, when, being call'd to Preach before *Magiſtrates*, I Exhorted Them to Prevent *theſe Dangers*, by putting *thoſe Laws* ſtrictly in Execution.

Juſt had been the *Indignation* of *the Honourable Houſe of Commons*, Juſt would be YOUR LORDSHIPS moſt ſevere *Reſentments*, if by any *Parallel* by me drawn, I had

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Insinuated that the *Members of Both Houses, who Pass'd the Vote concerning the Safe and Flourishing Condition of the Church, had been then Conspiring its Ruin*; I have already *Purg'd* My self from This *Imputation*, by Observing, that the *Parallel*, ascrib'd to Me, Implies, that They who Voted *King Charles the First* to be out of *Danger*, and those who *Conspir'd his Death*, were the very *same Persons*, whereas it is certain they were not; for, My Lords, the *Vote* about the *King's Safety* was Pass'd by *Lords and Commons* an *Year and half* before His Execrable Murther, which had been Contriv'd by *the Army*, and was Perpetrated by a *Pretended Ordinance* of a *small Remnant of the House of Commons (not a Tenth Part of the Whole) after the Rest of the Members had been Imprison'd, or Secluded, and without the Concurrence of the House of Peers, who totally Rejected it.* You have had, My Lords, a very *Different Representation* of *This Fact* made by *One* of the *Learned Managers*: but this, My Lords, is the *Real Truth*, as recited in the *Act of Parliament* for *the Attainder of the King's Murtherers*; and is an *Evidence*, that I *could* not possibly mean by any *Odious Parallel* to Insinuate, that the *Members* of *Both Houses*, who Pass'd the Vote concerning the Safety of the Church, were *then* Conspiring its Ruin.

I humbly crave Your Lordships Patience yet a little farther, whilst I speak to what is Alledg'd in the *Fourth Article*, which Charges Me with many Crimes of a very *High* and *Flagrant* Nature; None of which have been Endeavour'd to be Prov'd upon Me, otherwise than from *Suppos'd Suggestions*, and *Undetermin'd Expressions*; and I must still, with Your Lordships Leave, humbly *Insist* upon it, that where the *Expressions* are *Doubtful*, there the *Favourable Sense* is always to be *Preferr'd*.

After all that has been said by the *Learned Managers for the Commons*, What Minister of State, I beseech Your Lordships, have I been *Prov'd* to *Reflect upon*, *Directly*,

Directly, or *Indirectly*? *Where*, and *How* do I, by any *Suggestion* Charge HER MAJESTY; or *Thoſe in Authority under Her, with a General Male-Adminiſtration*? *How* do I perſuade Her Subjects to keep up a *Diſtinction of Parties, and Factions*, while I Reprove Thoſe who *Divide* Us by *Knaviſh Diſtinctions*, and while I perſuade My Fellow-Subjects to *Loſe* and *Forget* them? *How* is it *poſſible*, I ſhould *Stir up the People to Arms and Violence*, when I am endeavouring to Convince Them of the Utter *Illegality of Reſiſtance* upon *any Pretence whatſoever*? Theſe Things, MY LORDS, ſeem to be *Inconſiſtent*, unleſs a Man may be thought a *Rebel* for Recommending *Loyalty*, or *Seditious* for Preaching againſt *Sedition*.

I remember indeed, at the Opening of this Charge againſt me, that *One of the Managers for the Houſe of Commons*, Vouchſaf'd to Offer his Charitable Aſſiſtance towards *Reconciling* this *Seeming Inconſiſtency*; for He was pleas'd to *Suppoſe* that, when I ſpake againſt *Reſiſting the Sovereign*, I had not Our *Gracious Queen*, but *ſome Other Perſon* in View; and that I might therefore agreeably to *My Principles of Non-Reſiſtance*, ſtir up the People to Arms and Violence againſt HER SACRED MAJESTY. YOUR LORDSHIPS will once more pardon My Earneſtneſs, if I call God to witneſs, that I utterly Deteſt any ſuch *Traiterous Intention*; and I ſhould in my Own Opinion be Unworthy of the *Name* of a *Chriſtian*, if I could give my ſelf leave to caſt ſuch a *Black, and Groundleſs Imputation* upon any One in *like* Circumſtances with *Mine*, who had given all *poſſible Evidences* of his *Duty* and *Affection* to the *Preſent Government*. MY LORDS, I have taken the *Oaths of Allegiance to* HER MAJESTY, and that of *Abjuration* againſt the *Pretender*, and when therefore I preach'd the *Doctrine* of *Non-Reſiſtance*, it is moſt apparent, that *the Government*, which I perſuaded My Fellow-Subjects *not* to *Reſiſt*, is *the Preſent Government*; and I humbly conceive, that the *Preſent Government* can *never* be *Overturn'd*, if it be *never Reſiſted*.

How *True* a *Zeal* and *Affection* I have always born to HER MAJESTY's *Perſon and Government*, I leave to be Judg'd by YOUR LORDSHIPS, and the *Whole World*, from thoſe *Publick Demonſtrations* which I have given of it, at all Times when I had Occaſion to make Mention of *Either*. I hope, YOUR LORDSHIPS will Pardon Me, if I refer to ſome of My Own *Printed Expreſſions*, as an evident Proof of My Unfeign'd Duty, and Allegiance. " If, " to call it the moſt Ineſtimable Bleſſing this Nation " could Enjoy, that HER MAJESTY, the Good and Pious " Relict of the Royal Family Sits now happily upon the " Throne of HER Anceſtors; if to Pray, that God may long " Preſerve HER for the *Comfort* and *Support* of the *Church*, " as the Only Security, under God, it has to Depend upon; " If, earneſtly to Contend for the Safety, Rights, and " Eſtabliſhment of HER MAJESTY, together with Thoſe " of the Church; If, to Vindicate HER MAJESTY's Title " to the Crown, againſt the Uſurpations, Pretences, and " Encroachments of HER Adverſaries, and to Aſſert HER " Right to the Throne to have been ſo Clear, Manifeſt, " and Undoubted, that even HER Worſt Enemies *(could " ſuch a Pious Princeſs be ſuppos'd to have any)* muſt " Acknowledge it; That SHE was Proclaim'd as 'twere by " the Voice of God, in the Univerſal Joy, Satisfaction, " and Unanimity of HER Subjects, that HER *Perſonal Me-" rit* Exempted from *That*, made HER Worthy of a " Brighter Diadem than SHE wears; If, to Perſuade HER " Subjects with the moſt hearty Zeal, and Generoſity, " to Enter into a Neceſſary War, for the Defence of HER " MAJESTY, and the Common Preſervation of Our " Church, Liberties, and Conſtitution, againſt a Power-" ful Adverſary; If, to Beſeech God to Proſper ſo Good " an Undertaking, to give an happy Event and Iſſue to " ſuch a Rightful Cauſe, to Crown Our Arms with Vi-" ctory, and to make them as Succeſsful, as they are Juſt, " and Honourable; And that, in order to this, We are " All bound, both in Duty to God, and Our Sovereign,

" as well as by Our Own Intereſt, unanimouſly, and
" heartily to Aſſiſt, and Support HER under this Great
" Undertaking, as far as Our Prayers, and Eſtates, Lives,
" and Fortunes can Serve HER; If, to Perſuade HER Sub-
" jects, that the Great, and Threatning Dangers of Our
" Enemies, ſhould have that Juſt Effect upon Us, to U-
" nite Us as much in Our Reſolutions, and Affections,
" As they do in Our Common Intereſts, Apprehenſions,
" and Troubles; If, to Set out the Bleſſings We enjoy
" in the Wiſe Conſtitution of Our Government, and
" Laws, in the moſt Refin'd Policies of Our Parliament,
" and Miniſtry, in the Strength and Number of Our
" Armies, Fleets, and Confederates, in the Care and
" Watchful Vigilance, the Courage, Reſolution, and
" Conduct of Our General, and *above all* in the Piety,
" and Prudence of Our *Moſt Gracious* QUEEN; If, to
" Affirm that SHE daily gives freſh Inſtances of HER Wiſ-
" dom, in the Happy Adminiſtration of HER Govern-
" ment, and in nothing more Shews HER Policy, and Di-
" ſtinguiſhing Judgment, than in making Choice of
" ſuch Miniſters of State, who are acceptable to their
" Country, and Expreſs ſuch a Zeal, and Steadyneſs in
" its Service, and true Intereſts, and whom nothing
" could Bribe, or Betray into a Party, wherein it might
" any ways ſeem to be Endanger'd; If, with the moſt
" ardent Requeſts to implore God's Providence, which
" through ſo many Dangers and Difficulties has rais'd
" up, and Preſerv'd HER MAJESTY, to carry on theſe
" Glorious Undertakings with Succeſs, that SHE may be
" Able to Reſtore, and Settle the Peace of *Europe*, in its
" juſt Rights and Limitations; and that, as God has
" Beſtow'd a Crown upon HER in This World, as the
" Reward of theſe Heroic and Pious Deſigns, ſo, after
" a Long Reign here, He would Advance HER to an
" Higher Throne in Heaven, and Dignify HER with a
" Glorious and Immortal Crown hereafter; If this, MY
LORDS, I ſay, is *Falſely, and Maliciouſly to Suggeſt, that*
HER

HER MAJESTY'S *Administration both in Eccleſiaſtical, and Civil Affairs, tends to the Deſtruction of the Conſtitution*; If This *be Charging* HER MAJESTY, *and thoſe in Authority under* HER *both in Church, and State, with a General Male-Adminiſtration*; If This be, *as an Incendiary, to perſuade* HER *Subjects to keep up Diſtinctions of Factions and Parties*; If This be *Inſtilling Groundleſs Jealouſies, Fomenting Deſtructive Diviſions, and ſtirring up* HER MAJESTY'S *Subjects to Arms and Violence*, againſt any but HER Enemies, then, MY LORDS, I am Guilty of *this Article of Impeachment*; Otherwiſe, I am Innocent.

MY LORDS, I have always Thought it *My Duty*, upon All *Publick Occaſions* to Aſſert theſe Principles of *Loyalty, and Subjection* to the Supreme Power, whenever I had a *Proper Call* ſo to do; of this there are *Numberleſs Witneſſes* in thoſe ſeveral Places to which I have Belong'd. One of theſe I beg Leave of YOUR LORDSHIPS particularly to Mention, *Madgalen College* in *Oxford*, whereof I am at preſent an Unworthy Member; and which by the known *Sufferings* of the *Whole Body* for the *Church*, and *Conſtitution*, contributed as much towards the *Late Happy Revolution* as any *Society* in the *Kingdom*. To which *Honourable Society* I humbly appeal for My *Character*, and *Behaviour*. I could alſo Appeal for the ſame to a *Right Reverend Lord*, that now ſits on the *Bench of Biſhops*.

Had it been fit to have Troubled YOUR LORDSHIPS with *Evidences* of My *Hearty Affection* to the *Preſent Government*, I could have produced them in Great Abundance, from the *Perſons* with whom I have *Convers'd*, from the *Gentlemen* whom I have *Bred* up, and from the *Congregations* to which I have *Preach'd*. If My *Principles* had any Tendency towards *Alienating* the *Affections* of HER MAJESTY'S Subjects, ſurely *ſome* One Inſtance of My *Diſloyalty* to the QUEEN, ſome *Favourable Expreſſions* towards the *Pretender*, ſome *Indications* of My *Diſlike* to the *Preſent Settlement*, and the *Proteſtant*

teſtant Succeſſion, might have been *Pitch'd* upon, and *Expos'd* to YOUR LORDSHIPS, in order to *Juſtify* the *Charge of Sedition* againſt Me. But I cannot, but with Pleaſure, Obſerve to YOUR LORDSHIPS, that from the *Whole Courſe* of My *Actions*, no *One* Inſtance of *That Kind* is *Alledg'd*, or ſo much as *Pretended*.

MY LORDS, the Charge of *wickedly wreſting divers Texts of Scripture* lyes very heavy upon Me, as a *Chriſtian*, and *Miniſter of Chriſt*. If I am Guilty of it, there is *Another Tribunal*, *Another Bar*, at which I am to Appear, and where, by *that Scripture*, which I have *Wreſted*, I ſhall be *Judg'd*, and *Condemn'd*. In the mean time, MY LORDS, I hope that thoſe, whoſe *Particular Profeſſion*, and *Studies Qualify* Them to be the moſt *Competent Judges* of *ſuch Matters*, will *Abſolve* Me in this Particular.

Upon the *Whole*, therefore, MY LORDS, I hope it appears, that I am not *Guilty* of *any* of the Crimes of which I am *Accus'd*; that I have Tranſgreſs'd *no Law of the Land*, neither *Statute*, nor *Common Law*, relating either to HER MAJESTY, or to My *Fellow-Subjects*, to the *Church*, or to the *State*; and that I may with all Humility apply to my Own Caſe, the Words of That *Bleſſed Apoſtle*, whoſe *Doctrine* I *defend*, and whoſe *Example* I hope I ſhall have the Grace to *follow*, *Neither againſt the Law, nor againſt the Temple, nor againſt Cæſar, have I Offended any Thing at all.*

What I have hitherto humbly Offer'd to YOUR LORDSHIPS relates to My *Words*, and *Actions*; and as to the *Thoughts*, and *Intentions of My Heart*, which are known only to *God*, and *My Own Conſcience*, and which are *Affirm'd* in My *Impeachment* to be *Wicked*, *Seditious*, and *Malicious*; I call the *Searcher of Hearts* to *Witneſs* in the moſt *Solemn*, and *Religious Manner*, as I expect to be *Acquitted before God, and his Holy Angels*, at that *Dreadful Tribunal*, before which not only *I*, but All the World, even YOUR LORDSHIPS, who now ſit in

Judgment

Judgment upon Me muſt *appear*, to be *Acquitted*, or *Condemn'd*; that I had no ſuch *Wicked*, *Seditious*, or *Malicious Intentions*; that there is nothing upon Earth, I more *Deteſt*, and *Abhor*; that My *Deſigns* were, in every reſpect, directly Contrary. I had no *Intention* to *Aſperſe the Memory of His Late Majeſty*, to *Traduce*, or *Condemn* the *Late Happy Revolution*, or to *Arraign* the *Reſolutions* of *Both Houſes of Parliament*. So far was I from Deſigning to *Undermine*, and *Subvert* HER MAJESTY'S *Government*, and the *Proteſtant Succeſſion* as by *Law Eſtabliſh'd*, that it was My *Sincere Intention* to Exert my *Beſt Endeavours* for their *Security*. So far was I from Intending, to perſwade HER MAJESTY'S *Subjects, to keep up a Diſtinction of Parties, and Factions, from Inſtilling groundleſs Jealouſies, fomenting Deſtructive Diviſions among them*, or *Exciting and Stirring them up to Arms and Violence*, that My Aim was to perſuade them to lay aſide *All Diſtinctions*, to *Unite in One, well-compacted Body*, to be Obedient to their Governors, and to Support the *Preſent Eſtabliſhment*. So far was I from Deſigning to *Defame* HER MAJESY'S *Adminiſtration*, or to Infuſe any *Undutiful Thoughts* of HER, that I not only Pay HER All Honour and Obedience, but am from the *bottom of my Soul* zealouſly, and affectionately *Loyal* to HER; being entirely perſuaded, that the *Church* is ſo far from being in Danger from HER, that SHE is as *heartily Affected to its Eſtabliſhment*, and *Proſperity*, as, I hope, I have always ſhew'd my ſelf to be to HER *Sacred Perſon, and Government*.

As to the *Proteſtant Succeſſion by Law Eſtabliſh'd*, tho' the *Doctrine* which I Preach'd, tends to the *Security* of it, (as I heartily deſire *every thing* by Me ſpoken ſhould tend) yet having *no Occaſion* in either of My *Sermons* to take Notice of it, I do no where in Thoſe Sermons *Mention* it, nor ſay any thing that can be *Interpreted* to have *any View* towards it. Therefore tho' I cannot with my beſt Application apprehend, how it

comes to be Said in the *Preamble* to *My Impeachment*, that *I had Deſign'd to Undermine and Subvert it*, yet I ſhall gladly take this Opportunity, of *Declaring My ſelf*, before YOUR LORDSHIPS upon *That Subject*. It is my Sincere and Hearty Prayer, that *God* would prolong the Life of HER MOST SACRED MAJESTY, whoſe *Exemplary Goodneſs* and *Piety*, give Us the Beſt Hopes We have of *Averting* That *Vengeance*, which is due to the *Wickedneſs* of the *Age* We Live in; that He would *Bleſs* HER *Councils* at *Home*, and HER *Arms Abroad*, and make HER *Reign* exceed that of HER *Renown'd Predeceſſor Queen* Elizabeth, *in Length*, as well as *Glory*. But when the *Inheritrix* of *the Bleſſed Martyr's Crown*, and *Piety*, when SHE, *the Deſire of Our Eyes, and the Breath of Our Noſtrils*, ſhall full of *Years*, and *Honour*, be *Gather'd* to *Her Fathers*, and exchange HER *Temporal* for an *Immortal* Crown; (ſince We are Depriv'd of *That Prince*, HER ROYAL OFFSPRING, whoſe *Loſs* no *True Lover* of his *Country*, and of the *Royal Family* can reflect upon without a *Bleeding Heart*, and whom *God* in his *Anger* took from Us, becauſe We were *Unworthy* of ſo *Ineſtimable a Bleſſing*,) I earneſtly beſeech *God*, in defect of *Future Iſſue* from HER MAJESTY, to *Perpetuate* the *Succeſſion* of the *Crown*, as it is *Eſtabliſh'd* in the moſt ILLUSTRIOUS HOUSE OF *HANNOVER*, which I look upon as, next to his Providence, the *Beſt Guard* We have againſt *Popery* and *Arbitrary Power*, the *Beſt Security* of *Our Church*, and of the *Conſtitution* of our *Government*, which is the *Glory*, and *Happineſs* of Our *Own Nation*, and the *Envy* of *All Others*. And I cannot *yet* apprehend, how the *Doctrine*, which I have Taught tends to *Weaken*, or *Undermine* it; nor on the Other Side, how the *Doctrine of Reſiſtance*, which brought HER MAJESTY'S *Royal Grand-Father* to the Block, *(ſuppoſing* it a *true Doctrine)* comes to be *Mention'd*, or *Thought of*, much leſs to be *Induſtriouſly Maintain'd*, as a NECESSARY AND INDISPENSIBLE DUTY, un-

der the moſt *Mild* and *Gracious Adminiſtration* of the BEST OF QUEENS. Nothing ſeems more *Strange* than that *Reſiſtance* ſhould be ſo carefully Taught under *ſuch a Government*, unleſs it be that *Non-Reſiſtance* ſhould *Overturn* it.

So far was I therefore from having any of Thoſe *Wicked, Malicious*, or *Seditious Deſigns*, which are laid to My *Charge*, that My *Intentions* were, on the *Contrary*, to *Inſtil* the *Principles of Loyalty*, and *Obedience* into My Fellow-Subjects, and withal to put a ſtop to That *Torrent* of *Lewdneſs*, *Irreligion*, and *Atheiſm*, of which I have given YOUR LORDSHIPS ſo many *Flagrant Teſtimonies*.

Thoſe *Outrageous Inſults* upon *God*, and *Goodneſs*, are ſo Provoking, that they may Excuſe ſome *Heat*, and *Severity of Expreſſion* in a *Miniſter of Chriſt*, who has a *Juſt Senſe* of *Religion*, a *due Concern* for the *Diſcharge* of his *Holy Function*, or for the *Honour* of his *Maker*, and *Redeemer*. And if any Objection be made againſt Me, for Treating with an *Unbecoming Bitterneſs* ſuch *Daring Rabſhekahs*, who *Defy the Living God*, I beg leave to Reply in the Words of a *Reverend Father of Our Church*, *Let them conſider what Moderation, and Temper, a Man had need be of, that in This Nation, and This Age ſhall ſpeak againſt Faction, Rebellion* (I add, *Deiſm, Tritheiſm*, and All Sorts of *Hereſy*, *Blaſphemy*, and *Atheiſm*) *without Extraordinary Severity*. Nay, it is Our *Duty in ſuch Caſes*, to Expreſs Our Selves with *Warmth*, and *Sharpneſs*, according to the Example of Our *Bleſſed Saviour*; who, tho' *Meekneſs it ſelf*, could not but ſhew the utmoſt Indignation at the *Profaning* the *Houſe of God*. This is not, MY LORDS, to *Rail*, but to *Rebuke*; and thoſe, who Ridicule, or Cenſure Us for it, either *have not*, I preſume, or *will not* Own They have, a *Right Notion* of the *Dignity* of Our *Office*; will not Conſider, that We are the *Ambaſſadors of Chriſt*, that We are *Commanded*, in his Name, *to Exhort, and Rebuke with all Authority*; and that Our *Authority* is

Deriv'd

Deriv'd from thoſe to whom it was ſaid by Our *Bleſſed Saviour, He that Deſpiſeth You, Deſpiſeth Me, and He that Deſpiſeth Me, Deſpiſeth Him that ſent Me:* Whatever Expreſſions therefore in my Sermons may have *Slipt* from Me, which ſeem *ſo* far Liable to *Exception*, as to carry a Senſe I never *Intended* (as He muſt be an *Happy Speaker* indeed, whoſe Words are altogether unexceptionable) yet I humbly hope, the abovemention'd Provocations will Plead my Excuſe, or that, at the very worſt, ſome *haſty*, or even *Violent Expreſſions*, ſhall not be Deem'd *High Crimes and Miſdemeanours*. I deſire it may be farther conſider'd by YOUR LORDSHIPS, that I could have no *Temporal Intereſts* to ſerve by the *Doctrines* I Advanc'd; and therefore could have no *Deſign* in view, but to *Diſcharge* my Duty to *God*, as a *Miniſter of Chriſt*, and to my *Sovereign*, as a *Faithful*, and *Loyal Subject*.

MY LORDS, Theſe Things being humbly Offer'd to the Conſideration of YOUR LORDSHIPS, I hope, that what I have already *Suffer'd*, as a *Suppos'd Criminal*, will be Thought *Sufficient Puniſhment* for One, who has Offended againſt *no Law yet in Being*. It muſt be thought no Little *Grief*, and *Vexation* to any *Ingenuous Man*, to be Brought to *this Bar*, under the Leaſt *Suſpicion* of ſuch *Crimes* as are laid to My Charge; but for a *Perſon* of *My Function* to have an *Accuſation* of This Nature Alledg'd againſt Him, ſo heinouſly Reflecting upon His *Holy Character*, is ſuch a *Foul Blot*, as tho' His *Innocence* ſhould at laſt be Clear'd by YOUR LORDSHIPS, upon the moſt *undeniable Evidence*, muſt leave a *Scar* upon his *Good Name*; which is to All Men Dear, but much more ſo to *Thoſe*, whoſe Whole *Capacity* of *Doing Good* in the World *Principally* Depends upon it.

MY LORDS, as the *Matter* of My *Charge* was highly *Criminal*, ſo the *Form*, and *Manner* of it ran in ſuch *General*, and *Uncertain Terms*, that 'twas impoſſible to know the Grounds of My *Accuſation*; or *how* to *Defend* My Self,

when

when I knew not *Where* I ſhould be *Attack'd*. So that after I had provided as *particular an Anſwer* as ſuch a *General Accuſation* would Admit of; the *Commons* were pleas'd in their *Replication* to ſay, that there *were ſeveral Things in it Foreign to the Charge*. To the Great Misfortune of falling under the *Diſpleaſure* of That *Honourable Houſe*, I might add, That of a *Long* and *Cloſe Confinement*, and of an *Expence* no ways proportion'd to My *Circumſtances*. Theſe, My Lords, are Afflictions which can be conceiv'd by no Body ſo well as by *Him*, who has been ſo *Unhappy* as to *Feel* the *Weight* of Them. And among Theſe I reckon it not the leaſt of My *Sufferings*, that I have been for ſo long a time Debarr'd, *from taking heed to That Flock over which the Holy Ghoſt hath made Me an Overſeer*. For even ſince I have had My *Liberty*, by the Favour of Your Lordships *admitting Me to Bail*, I have purpoſely avoided Doing any Part of the *Duty* of My *Function*, or even *Appearing in Publick*, leſt it ſhould Occaſion any *Tumult* or *Diſturbance*; as My *Neceſſary Attendance* on Your Lordships from time to time has ſince been thought, *Unhappily* to have done, without any *Fault of Mine*, or the *leaſt degree of Encouragement* given by *Me*, which I profeſs, in the Preſence *of God*, to Abhor.

All theſe Circumſtances, My Lords, being conſider'd, together, with the *Publick Manner*, the *Length*, and *Solemnity* of My *Trial*, before ſo AUGUST a COURT OF JUDICATURE, by which Means *I am made a Gazing-Stock, both by Reproaches, and Afflictions, and a Spectacle to the Whole World*; I have ſtood in this place day after day, to hear My Self Accus'd of the *Blackeſt Crimes*, and openly *Revil'd*; I have been Repreſented as a *Papiſt* in Diſguiſe, as a *Rebel*, as an *Enemy to* Her Majesty's *Perſon, and Government*, and a *Favourer of the Pretender*, tho' I have *Abjur'd* him, (but not *Forgot* him, as a Learned Perſon was pleas'd to ſay) that is, as the Worſt of *Perjur'd Villains*: I have been call'd *an Inſignificant Tool of a Party*, on the One hand, and *a moſt*

Dangerous Incendiary, on the Other, nay *an Angel*, that is a Devil, *detach'd from the Infernal Regions*: All theſe things, I ſay, being conſider'd, (and YOUR LORDSHIPS I am ſure, in tender Compaſſion to Me, will conſider them,) it is moſt certain, that, whatever be YOUR LORDSHIPS Determination concerning Me, I cannot eſcape without being a very *Great Sufferer*, and I ſhall have been abundantly *Puniſh'd*, tho' I ſhould have the *Happineſs* to be by YOUR LORDSHIPS at laſt *Acquitted*.

Yet I cannot Reflect without *Comfort*, (the *Greateſt of Comforts*, next to *That* of a *Good Cauſe*, and a *Good Conſcience*) that *I Anſwer for My Self this day* before the moſt Illuſtrious Aſſembly in the World, the *Whole Body of the Nobility of GREAT BRITAIN*; whoſe *Princely Extraction*, and *High Quality*, whoſe *Magnificent Titles*, and *Splendid Fortunes*, whoſe *Hereditary Candour*, and *Generoſity*, *inherent* in *Noble Bloud*, *Inſeparable* from the *Birth*, and *Education* of *Peers*; in a word, whoſe *Solid Judgment*, and *Exact Skill* in the *Laws* of *This Realm*, ſo eminently Qualify them for the *Final Determination* of *Juſtice*; who are neither to be *Sway'd* by *Hopes*, *Over-rul'd* by *Fears*, nor *Miſled* by any *Falſe Prejudice*, or *Paſſion*. If it muſt be a Man's *Misfortune*, to *Labour* under ſuch *hard Circumſtances* as *Mine*, it is no ſmall *Mitigation* of Them, that He *Pleads* His *Cauſe* before *ſuch Judges*, who, He knows, will *Decide* it, with the ſtricteſt *Impartiality*, *Equity*, and *Honour*.

And when I conſider that *I now Stand, and am Judg'd* for ſome of the *Doctrines* of *That Goſpel*, which God *Deliver'd unto Our Fathers*, and You, MY LORDS THE BISHOPS, Their *Succeſſors*, have receiv'd from *Chriſt* and *His Apoſtles*, as the *Sacred Depoſitum* of the *Church*, to be Maintain'd inviolably in its *Primitive Simplicity*; when I conſider, What is the *Cauſe for which I am this Day call'd in Queſtion*; that it is *One* of thoſe *Eternal Truths*, which You are ſo Solemnly *Commiſſion'd* to Teach, and *earneſtly Contend* for; when I conſider, that 'tis what

Our *Bleſſed Lord* and his *Apoſtles* ſeal'd with their moſt *Pretious Bloud*, and ſo many *Primitive Martyrs* Maintain'd even in the midſt of *Flames*, ſo many *Learned Biſhops*, and *Confeſſours Recommended* to *Poſterity* in Their *Immortal Writings*, as the *Diſtinguiſhing Badge*, and *Glory* of Our *Reformation*; nay, when I conſider, that 'tis what *You Your ſelves* have *already Supported* with *Inconteſtable Reaſon*, and *Authority*; it is no ſmall Satisfaction to Me to think, that as YOUR LORDSHIPS are My *Judges*, ſo, I hope in God, YOU muſt be My *Advocates*. What a *Guilt*, as well as *Diſgrace*, would it juſtly Devolve upon the *Clergy*, to *Recede* from any *Principle* of Our *Excellent Church*, eſpecially from what has been ſo long *Retain'd*, and *Boaſted of*, as its *Peculiar Character!* By *Abandoning* which We muſt *Relapſe* into ſome of the *worſt Doctrines* even of *Popery* it ſelf, and render *Our Selves* the moſt *Contemptible*, as well as *Inconſiſtent Church* in the World! I think, I may therefore with Confidence uſe the Words of the *Great Apoſtle* to His *Accuſers*; *Having Obtain'd Help from God, I continue unto this Day, Witneſſing both to Small and Great; Saying none other Things than thoſe which the Prophets and* Moſes (I may add Chriſt, and His Apoſtles,) *did ſay.*

For, MY LORDS, if I have committed any Faults or Errours in Expreſſion, yet as I *Inſiſt* upon My *Innocence* with reſpect to All the *High Crimes* laid to My *Charge*, ſo I muſt ſtill *Inſiſt* upon *All the Doctrines* which I have Taught, as being *Agreeable* to the *Word of God*, and to the *Doctrine* of Our *moſt Excellent* and truly *Apoſtolical Church*, and which *We* of *the Clergy* are *Oblig'd* both by *Subſcription*, and *Oath* to *Acknowledge*, and *Defend.* And how *hard* are Our *Circumſtances*, if We muſt be *Puniſh'd* in This World for *Doing* that, which if We *do not*, We ſhall be more heavily *Puniſh'd* in the *Next!* What a *Condition* are We in, if We are *Commanded* to *Cry aloud and Spare not, to Exhort, Rebuke, in Seaſon and out of Seaſon*, on the one Hand, and

Proſe-

Profecuted, Impriſon'd, Ruin'd on the Other! If this be Our Caſe, *who indeed is Sufficient for theſe Things?* And how truly may We of the *Miniſtry* above All Men Living, Apply to Our Selves thoſe Words of the Apoſtle, *If in this Life only We have Hope in Chriſt, We are of all Men moſt miſerable:* But Our *Comfort* is, that Our *Hope in Chriſt* is not only in *this Life.* Juſtly might we be *Reproach'd*, and *Deſerve* ſome of Thoſe *Reflections*, which in theſe *Licentious Times* are ſo Plentifully *pour'd* upon Us, were We not ready to *Practiſe* the *Doctrines* We *Preach*, of *Self-Denyal, taking up Our Croſs*, and *patient Submiſſion to Sufferings* and *Afflictions!* For my *Own* Part, it matters not what becomes of *Me*, nor is *My Deliverance*, or *Ruine*, of any Moment to the World; or, if it be, *I am ready not only to be Bound, but to Dye*, could I by That do Service to My QUEEN, My *Church*, or My *Country*; *neither Count I my Life dear, ſo that I might Finiſh my Courſe, with Joy, and the Miniſtry, which I have receiv'd of the Lord Jeſus.* But may *God* ſo Direct YOUR LORDSHIPS, that through *Me* a *Wound* may not be Given to the *Doctrines* of the *Scriptures*, and of *the Church*, *which Chriſt hath purchas'd with His Own Bloud.*

And ſo, with all *Humility* and *Reſignation*, I ſubmit My Self to YOUR LORDSHIPS *Judgment*; be it what it will, *One Thing* I am ſure it can never *take* from Me, the Power of *Wiſhing*, and *Praying*, and (whether in *Proſperity* or *Adverſity*, whether I am *Acquitted*, or *Condemn'd*,) I ſhall always Pray, for the QUEEN MY SOVEREIGN, for YOUR LORDSHIPS, My *Judges*, and for the COMMONS My *Accuſers*; moſt earneſtly beſeeching Almighty God, to Deliver all Orders, and Degrees of Men amongſt Us, *from All Falſe Doctrine, Hereſy, and Schiſm, from Hardneſs of Heart, from Contempt of His Word, and Commandment; from Envy, Hatred, and Malice, and all Uncharitableneſs.*

FINIS.